

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 577

By Bell

A RESOLUTION to honor Coach Ben Smith and the Bradley Central High School Bears as the 2016 TSSAA AAA State Duals and Traditional Wrestling Champions.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body are pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school athletic teams that bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Bradley Central High School Bears comprise one such outstanding wrestling team, which won both the Dual and Traditional TSSAA AAA State Wrestling Championships this year; and

WHEREAS, these two State championships are the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, respectively, in Bradley Central wrestling history, an impressive feat; the Bears won twelve dual championships between 1994 and 2012 and ten traditional championships between 1998 and 2010, with legendary coach Steve Logsdon at the helm for twenty-one of those State titles; and

WHEREAS, sending seven state-ranked wrestlers to the mat, Bradley Central breezed through the first three rounds of the State Duals Championship with 34 wins in 42 bouts, besting Bartlett 45-27, Gibbs 34-31, and Science Hill 42-34 to set up a rematch of the Region 4 Championship with Soddy-Daisy; and

WHEREAS, the Bears roared to victory by a margin of 52-21 and dominated the rematch with ten victories to claim the State Duals Championship for the first time in four years, with T.J. Hicks, Ryan McElhaney, Joshua LaCoe, Hunter Parker, Knox Fuller, Donnie Beyer, Caleb Adkins, Ed Elkins, Brett Brown, and D.J. Adams winning in their respective weight classes in the finals; and

WHEREAS, two weeks later, Bradley Central once again dominated their opponents in the TSSAA State Traditional Wrestling Championship by posting 244.5 points, thus doubling the score of the second-place squad, Tennessee High School, and winning five of six possible individual championships on the final day of competition; and

WHEREAS, Bradley Central's five champions included T.J. Hicks at 113 pounds, who capped off an unbeaten season (44-0) after winning the championship at 106 pounds last year; Ryan McElhaney, who was the winner at 120 pounds; Knox Fuller, who claimed his third consecutive State title, this year at 138 pounds; Donnie Beyer, who was the victor at 152 pounds; and Brett Brown, who claimed the title at 195 pounds; and

WHEREAS, the 152-pound title match between Bradley Central's Donnie Beyer and Ravenwood's Chris Rowland was voted Best Match after Donnie prevailed 3-2 over the number-one seed in the weight class; and

WHEREAS, Bradley Central was the most effective pinning team in the State Traditional Wrestling Championship with 24 pins, and the Bears also earned the most points on average for each of their wrestlers with 18.8 points; and

WHEREAS, Ben Smith earned his first two State titles with Bradley Central during his fifth year as head coach, continuing an incredible wrestling dynasty at the school; an eleven-year veteran of coaching, he had previously coached twelve State championship teams; and

WHEREAS, a product of Bradley Central himself, Coach Smith served as the wrestling team's captain, won more than 100 matches during his high-school career, and was a member of four State Championship teams, before continuing his wrestling career at the collegiate level at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, Coach Smith greatly benefited from the dedication and expertise of his assistant coaches: Justin Anglin, Shawn Cordell, Shane Blalock, and Dustin Catlett; and

WHEREAS, the only breakdown Bradley Central experienced occurred after they had won their second championship; on the way home to Cleveland, the team bus suffered a mechanical breakdown, and they were forced to celebrate in Murfreesboro overnight; and

WHEREAS, the 2015-2016 State Champion Bradley Central Bears are: seniors, D.J. Adams, Donnie Beyer, Bryson Bishop, Brett Brown, Brandon Cook, Elijah Danley, Joshua LaCoe, and Hunter Parker; juniors, Ethan Anderson, Alec Binns, Edward Elkins, Knox Fuller, T.J. Hicks, Trey Hicks, Will Kaylor, Conner Lewis, Austin Matthews, Ryan McElhaney, Dawson Mills, Jordan Moats, Tripp Storrs, and Dalton Taylor; sophomores, Austin Beard, Martin Bueno, Chris Cash, Nick Fain, Tyler Finger, Kevin Gentry, Bailey Graham, Henley Headrick, Stephen Hurley, Ian Marchese, Gage Matthews, Adam Mullis, Andy Robinson, and Alex Shoemaker; and freshmen, Caleb Barnett, Dylan Cain, Aron Campbell, Wesley Devaney, Brance Falls, Seth Gerena, DJ Gibson, Skylar Godfrey, Luke Haney, Tyler Hicks, Trey Johnson, John Krivlapov, Daniel Mroz, Luke Pace, Skylar Perry, Kobe Prater, Curtis Rzeplinski, Clay Shoemaker, and Dillan Tenpenny; and

WHEREAS, the Bradley Central Bears displayed the strength, agility, tenacity, and perseverance of true champions and represented their school and the State of Tennessee in fine fashion, displaying peerless character both on and off the wrestling mat; and

WHEREAS, the Bradley Central Bears have etched their names in the annals of Tennessee sports history; their dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent not only made possible two championships, but also surely point toward their success in future endeavors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Coach Ben Smith and the Bradley Central High School Bears upon capturing both the 2016 TSSAA AAA State Duals Wrestling Championship and the 2016 TSSAA AAA State Traditional Wrestling Championship and extend to these remarkable young men our best wishes for much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.